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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*

(covering its work during 1998)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters I and II

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* The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Other chapters of the report have been issued separately in document A/53/23 (Parts II to IX). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

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Letter of transmittal

8 September 1998

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1998.

(Signed) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Acting Chairman of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to the
Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I
Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, *mutatis mutandis*, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, *inter alia*, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-second session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 10 December 1997, adopted resolution 52/78 in which it, *inter alia*:

"5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1997, including the programme of work envisaged for 1998;[4]

"...

"11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(*a*) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

"(*b*) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(*c*) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(*d*) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1998 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted eight other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution No.*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	52/75	10 December 1997
New Caledonia	52/76	10 December 1997
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	52/77 A and B	10 December 1997

Consensus

Territory	*Decision No.*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	52/419	10 December 1997

Decisions

Territory	*Decision No.*	*Date of adoption*
East Timor	52/402	19 September 1997
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	52/409	10 November 1997

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	52/71	10 December 1997
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	52/72	10 December 1997
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	52/73	10 December 1997
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	52/74	10 December 1997
Dissemination of information on decolonization	52/79	10 December 1997

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	52/417	10 December 1997

10. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session (see decision 52/402).

11. At its 47th plenary meeting, on 10 November 1997, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)"and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session (decision 52/409).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1870).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1998, the Special Committee was composed of the following 25 members:

Antigua and Barbuda	Iraq
Bolivia	Mali
Chile	Papua New Guinea
China	Russian Federation
Congo	Saint Lucia
Côte d'Ivoire	Sierra Leone
Cuba	Syrian Arab Republic
Ethiopia	Trinidad and Tobago
Fiji	Tunisia
Grenada	United Republic of Tanzania
India	Venezuela
Indonesia	Yugoslavia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1998 appears in documents A/AC.109/INF/36 and A/AC.109/INF/36/Add.1.

14. By a letter dated 14 August 1998 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2133), the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations informed the Bureau and the membership of the Special Committee of the decision of Trinidad and Tobago to withdraw from the Committee with effect from 14 August 1998.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1998 and election of officers

15. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1484th) meeting, on 6 February 1998. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1484).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:
Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Vice-Chairmen:
Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Moctar Ouane (Mali)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

17. Following the departure on 27 March 1998 of Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana, the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba), served as the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee during its 1998 session.

C. Organization of work

18. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to maintain the arrangement it had at its previous session, by which its Subcommittee and its Working Group were replaced by an Open-ended Bureau.

19. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (A/AC.109/L.1871, sections 2 and 3).

20. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1484th meeting, on 6 February, by the Chairman and by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and the Russian Federation; and at the 1489th and 1496th meetings, on 1 and 13 July, by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1484, 1489 and 1496).

21. At the 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

22. At the 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of East Timor. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

23. At the 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

24. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

25. The Special Committee held 17 meetings at Headquarters during 1997, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1484th meeting, 6 February; 1485th meeting, 30 April; and 1486th meeting, 22 May;

(b) Second part of the session: 1487th to 1496th meetings, 29 June to 13 July; 1497th to 1500th meetings, 10 to 12 August.

26. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	1487, 1499	A/53/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 9
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	1469, 1470	A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII, para. 7
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico	1497–1498	A/52/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 41
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	1493–1496	A/53/23 (Part VI), chap. X, para. 9
Guam	1493–1496	A/53/23 (Part VIII), chap. XII, para. 9
Tokelau	1495	A/53/23 (Part VII), chap. XI, para. 9
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	1495	A/53/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 8
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration	1495	A/53/23 (Part III), chap. VI, para. 7
Gibraltar	1487	A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 19
East Timor	1488–1491	A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 14
New Caledonia	1493, 1495, 1496	A/53/23/ (Part V) chap. IX., para. 33
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1492	A/53/23 (Part IX), chap. XIII, para. 14
Western Sahara	1488	A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 32
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	1500	A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, para. 11

2. Subsidiary bodies

Open-ended Bureau

27. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to maintain the arrangement it had at its previous session, by which its Subcommittee and its Working Group were replaced by an Open-ended Bureau.

28. During the period covered by the present report, the Open-ended Bureau held four meetings.

29. At the 1496th meeting, on 13 July, the Acting Chairman drew members' attention to the draft report of the Open-ended Bureau contained in aide-mémoire 13/98 dated 30 June 1998. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Chile, Cuba, the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, the Special Committee decided to take up the draft report at a later stage of its work.

30. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886), as well as to the paper submitted by the Acting Chairman (ibid., annex).

31. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

32. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,[5] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1998, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/78, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1998.

33. At its 1499th meeting, on 11 August, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-third session (A/AC.109/L.1886).

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico[6]

34. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

35. At its 1497th and 1498th meetings, on 10 and 11 August 1998, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meetings, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1497th and 1498th meetings, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned (see A/AC.109/SR.1497-1498), as indicated below:

1497th meeting

Mr. Manuel Fermín Arraiza, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico
Rev. Eunice Santana, on behalf of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
Mr. Fernando Martín-García, Puerto Rican Independence Party
Mr. Juan Mari Bras, Causa Común Independentista
Mr. Jorge Farinacci, Frente Socialista
Mr. Erasto Zayas Nuñez, on behalf of Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico
Mr. Carlos Vizcarrondo Irizarry, Partido Popular Democrático and La Comisión Autonomista Puertorriqueña
Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Nacional Jóvenes Lulac
Mr. Ramón Luis Crespi Marrero, Agricultores Pro-Estadidad
Ms. Miriam Santiago, Educadores Arecibeños Pro-Estadidad
Mr. Luis Vega Ramos, PROELA
Ms. Marisol Corretjer Ruiz, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico
Mr. Alberto Lozada-Colón, on behalf of Comisión Internacional de Unión Pro-Patria
Ms. Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists
Mr. Julio A. Muriente Pérez, Nuevo Movimiento Independentista Puertorriqueño
Mr. John Ward Llambias, on behalf of Fundación Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña
Ms. Jennifer González-Colón, Give Puerto Rico a Chance

1498th meeting

Ms. Olga Rodriguez, on behalf of National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party
Ms. Hydee Rivera, Estadistas ante la O.N.U.
Mr. Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente, United Statehooders Organization, Inc.
Ms. Wilma E. Reverón Collazo, Congreso Nacional Hostosiano
Mr. Fernando Escabi, University Students of San Sebastián, Puertorriqueños Pro-Estadidad
Ms. Rosa Rivera Santos, Cidreños Pro-Autodeterminación
Mrs. Lolita Lebrón, on behalf of Puerto Rico, Mi Patria
Ms. Ana M. López, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners
Ms. Elsie Valdés de Lizardi, Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos Unidos
Ms. Nilda Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture
Mr. J. M. Rivera-Arvelo, U.S. Statehood for Puerto Rico, Inc.
Rev. Eliezar Valentín-Castañón, on behalf of General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

36. At the 1497th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1885.

37. At the 1498th meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote. Statements were made by the representatives of China and Bolivia (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

38. Following a statement by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1498), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1885 by a roll-call vote of 10 to

none, with 6 abstentions (see para. 41). The voting was as follows:*

In favour:

Bolivia, China, Cuba, Grenada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Venezuela.

39. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bolivia, Iraq, Papua New Guinea, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela made statements in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

40. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman made a further statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1498).

41. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2131) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, appears below:

"*The Special Committee*,

"*Bearing in mind* the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

"*Recalling* that 25 July 1998 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States of America's intervention in Puerto Rico,

"*Having heard* statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

"*Taking into account* the discussions in the Congress of the United States of America on relations between Puerto Rico and the United States of America,

"*Considering* that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the sixteen resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonization on the question of Puerto Rico,

"*Aware* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity,

"1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the application of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

"2. *Expresses* its hope, and that of the international community, that the Government of the United States of America will assume its responsibility of expediting a process that allows the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico;

"3. *Requests* the Rapporteur to present a report to the Special Committee next year on the implementation of the present resolution;

"4. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuing review."

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

42. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1371), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

43. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 52/78, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

44. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the

* The representative of Côte d'Ivoire informed the Special Committee that, had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour.

small Territories (see chaps. X-XII of the present report, A/53/23 (Parts VI-VIII)).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

45. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

46. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

47. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

48. Having regard to its programme of work for 1999, the Special Committee, at its 1497th meeting, on 11 August 1998, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. Also at its 1497th meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1999 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

4. Pattern of conferences

49. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

50. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the official documents issued by the Special Committee in 1998 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

51. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 1999, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*	
February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)
(b) *Bureau*	
February/July	20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1999, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

5. Control and limitation of documentation

52. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its

documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 52/214 of 22 December 1997. The Special Committee noted that, by its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

53. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see chaps. IX and XI of the present report, A/53/23 (Parts V and VII)).

54. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia (see chap. IX of the present report, A/53/23 (Part V), para. 24).

55. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[7] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and January–March 1997, which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly of consolidated resolutions 51/224 and 52/77 on small Territories without a vote, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions (see A/51/PV.83, A/51/PV.94 and A/52/PV.69).

56. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1884, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/2130), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see chap. IV, para. 9, of the present report, A/53/23 (Part II)).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

57. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

58. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights is contained in chapter III, paragraphs 7 to 11, of the present report (A/53/23 (Part II)).

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

59. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 6 February 1998, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1999 (see A/AC.109/L.1886).

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

60. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1997 session[8] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

61. At its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Other questions

62. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1870, paras. 10 and 11).

63. That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

64. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 52/73 relating to the item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the representative of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/53/23 (Part IV)).

2. Commission on Human Rights

65. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

66. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (1998/5), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1998/13), the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (1998/14), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1998/15), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (1998/33) and the right to development (1998/72); and resolution 1998/28 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report.[9] It also took into account the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor.[10] The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 52/101, 52/102, 52/103, 52/104, 52/105, 52/113, 52/123, 52/131, 52/136 and 52/148 of 12 December 1997.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

67. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 75 and 76 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

68. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/53/23 (Part IV)).

69. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII, X and XI of the present report (see A/53/23 (Parts IV, VI and VII)).

5. Organization of African Unity

70. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU.

6. Caribbean Community

71. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of CARICOM.

7. South Pacific Forum

72. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

73. The Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 May 1998 and the Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 28 August to 3 September 1998.

9. Non-governmental organizations

74. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 52/78 and 52/79, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2119 and 2121) and the present report (see part I, chap. I, para. 35; part V, chap. IX, paras. 7, 22 and 31; part VIII, chap. XII, para. 5). The related decisions of the Special Committee are reflected in chapter III of the present report (see A/53/23 (Part II)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

75. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1871), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1998 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

76. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

77. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997 and the relevant report of the Secretary-General.[11]

I. Review of work

78. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which

brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be pursued in 1998. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on 12 Territories was consolidated into three resolutions (A/AC.109/2124, A/AC.109/2128 and A/AC.109/2129; see chaps. X (resolutions A and B, para. 9), XI (para. 9) and XII (para. 9) of the present report (A/53/23 (Parts VI-VIII))).

79. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2130), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2123), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2125) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2132), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2126).

80. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, in June 1998 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

81. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

82. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2120) which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-third session (see chap. III of the present report, A/53/23 (Part II)).

83. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter (A/AC.109/2131), which is set out in paragraph 41 of the present chapter.

84. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

85. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-third session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 1999 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which is contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December 1960.

86. Given the significance of the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will endeavour to look at its own work critically, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.

87. In order to facilitate the consultations on the intended approach to that assessment, and on the basis of the general discussions and comments of delegates during the current session, the Acting Chairman presented a paper, without prejudice to the position of any delegation, which is annexed to the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886).

88. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep under continuous review any developments concerning each Territory. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. In that connection, the Special Committee intends to improve and strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers.

89. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

90. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in that connection include a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1999, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

91. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

92. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes also that the issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058 and A/AC.109/2089).

93. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the actions taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 1998 and those to be held in 1999 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

94. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

95. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing

Territories (A/AC.109/2125) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

96. Taking into consideration its mandate on Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

97. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

98. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 1999, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1999, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

99. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights to disseminate information on its activities and on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

100. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1999. The Special Committee is gratified that the informal consultations it held with the administering Powers (the United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small Territories and the draft resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. It intends to pursue those consultations, which it hopes will be transformed into formal cooperation. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

101. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 1999. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999 based on the level of activities approved for 1997, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-third session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General

will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1998 session

102. At its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

103. At the 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Acting Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1998 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-second sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), and ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[5] Ibid., chap. I, para. 105.

[6] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

[7] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23), chap. I, paras. 62 and 63.

[9] E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50 and E/CN.4/1998/88.

[10] E/CN.4/1998/58.

[11] A/52/528.

Annex

List of official documents of the Special Committee, 1998

Document No.	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/INF/36 and Add.1	List of delegations	25 June 1998 9 July 1998
A/AC.109/2101 and Corr.1	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Nadi, Fiji, from 6 to 18 June 1998: guidelines and rules of procedure	5 May 1998 13 May 1998
A/AC.109/2102	Cayman Islands (working paper)	1 May 1998
A/AC.109/2103	Pitcairn (working paper)	1 May 1998
A/AC.109/2104	American Samoa (working paper)	4 May 1998
A/AC.109/2105	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2106	Anguilla (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2107	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	19 May 1998
A/AC.109/2108	Montserrat (working paper)	12 May 1998
A/AC.109/2109	Bermuda (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2110	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2111 and Add.1	East Timor (working paper)	1 June 1998 30 June 1998
A/AC.109/2112	Gibraltar (working paper)	3 June 1998
A/AC.109/2113	Guam (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2114	New Caledonia (working paper)	3 June 1998
A/AC.109/2115	St. Helena (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2116	Tokelau (working paper)	2 June 1998
A/AC.109/2117	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2118	Western Sahara (working paper)	1 June 1998
A/AC.109/2119	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from May 1997 to June 1998: report of the Department of Public Information	24 June 1998
A/AC.109/2120	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998	29 June 1998
A/AC.109/2121	Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 6 to 18 June 1998	18 June 1998
A/AC.109/2122	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1492nd meeting, on 6 July 1998	9 July 1998

Document No	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2123	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998	17 September 1998
A/AC.109/2124	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998	20 July 1998
A/AC.109/2125	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998	20 July 1998
A/AC.109/2126	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998	20 July 1998
A/AC.109/2127	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998	20 July 1998
A/AC.109/2128	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998	22 September 1998
A/AC.109/2129	Question of Guam: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meetings on 11 August 1998	17 August 1998
A/AC.109/2130	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998	17 August 1998
A/AC.109/2131	Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998	17 August 1998
A/AC.109/2132	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998	17 August 1998
A/AC.109/2133	Letter dated 14 August 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee	19 August 1998
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/L.1870	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	30 January 1998
A/AC.109/L.1871	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	30 January 1998
A/AC.109/L.1872	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	25 June 1998
A/AC.109/L.1873	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	25 June 1998
A/AC.109/L.1874	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela	30 June 1998
A/AC.109/L.1875 and Rev.1	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea	7 July 1998 8 July 1998
A/AC.109/L.1876 and Rev.1	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	8 July 1998 9 July 1998

Document No.	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/L.1877	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman	8 July 1998
A/AC.109/L.1878 and Rev.1 and Rev.1*	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	9 July 1998 13 July 1998 13 July 1998
A/AC.109/L.1879	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	13 July 1998
A/AC.109/L.1880	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Acting Chairman	5 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1881	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	5 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1882 and Add.1	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Acting Chairman	7 August 1998 12 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1883	Question of Guam: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea	5 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1884	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	11 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1885	Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	7 August 1998
A/AC.109/L.1886	Report of the Special Committee	11 August 1998

Chapter II
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

2. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/L.1871), decided to allocate to the Open-ended Bureau and plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

3. At its 1485th and 1499th meetings, on 30 April and 10 July 1998, respectively, the Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. On 5 May 1998, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2101) were issued. On 13 May, a corrigendum to that document was issued.

5. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

6. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Pacific Regional Seminar introduced the draft report of the Seminar (subsequently issued as document A/AC.109/2121) containing a detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Seminar, which had been held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, as well as a list of the topics discussed at the Seminar, a summary of the discussions and the list of participants. In the course of his statement, the Rapporteur of the Seminar made the following recommendations:

(a) Appropriate lead time to prepare the Seminar was essential; consultations with countries interested in hosting the Seminar should begin early;

(b) The list of proposed invitees presented for the Special Committee's consideration should contain some information on the individuals and organizations proposed; the Special Committee, in approving the list of funded and non-funded invitees, should give the Chairman flexibility so that, if one funded expert or funded representative of an organization could not attend, another one of the approved invitees might benefit from funding if circumstances warrant it;

(c) The Seminar's agenda was quite ambitious and extensive; experts who were asked to prepare presentations (discussion papers) should be asked to cover appropriately the main themes of the agenda, not merely asked to choose, because the Seminar could end up with several of them covering one topic while other topics go uncovered;

(d) Participants should be asked to prepare a one-page summary of their presentation and recommendations in addition to their full presentation and submit them in advance of the Seminar;

(e) The Seminar's schedule of meetings should be determined in advance, so that those presenting papers might know when they would make their presentation and how much time they would have for discussion of each item; certainly, flexibility should always be maintained, but this simple procedure might help in planning so that the Special Committee would not have to wait until the Seminar began to have a list of speakers;

(f) The question-and-answer period at the Fiji Seminar was particularly useful in promoting an open and frank discussion; that practice should be maintained after the presentations are made;

(g) The Seminar's guidelines and rules of procedure should be updated to reflect the experience gained in the past few years of organizing and conducting seminars.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the recommendations proposed by the Rapporteur of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

8. At the same meeting, following the proposal made by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1495), the Special Committee decided to consider the English text of the draft report.

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1495).

10. At its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Noting that the Plan of Action for the Decade provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Special Committee decided to organize in 1999 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (see A/AC.109/L.1886).